

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS

BY

GEORGE BUSH

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

BEFORE

THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

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(FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M.)

George Bush, Director of Central Intelligence, said today that the United States has an intelligence capability and warning system "second to none in the world" but that there is a continuing concern about "senseless disclosures" that jeopardize the American intelligence effort.

In a talk prepared for delivery before the World Affairs Council at Hartford, Conn., Mr. Bush said: "I can assure you we have an intelligence capability second to none in the world. We have an alert and warning system that will prevent any 'Pearl Harbor' surprises." But he added that protection of "genuine intelligence secrets" is vital to the security of America.

Mr. Bush spoke of the need for a "realistic appreciation by all Americans of the complex nature of secrecy in a free and open society, where in the absence of legal sanctions it is the responsibility of the individual -- whether government official, journalist or concerned citizen -- to balance carefully the legitimate demands of national defense with the exercise of first amendment rights."

Mr. Bush said that when sensitive intelligence information is disclosed the lives of Americans may be jeopardized. He added: "Foreign governments may wonder whether we will ever be able to hold on to intelligence secrets and are reluctant to share their own protected information which is often needed to supplement our knowledge."

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The Central Intelligence Director, speaking after almost nine months in office, said that the Executive Order on the intelligence community issued by President Ford in February 1976 had "already proved significant" in improving the management of the government's intelligence agencies. He said it was a "remarkable document" in that it set down "rules, openly and publicly, by which the United States conducts a vital, difficult and necessarily partially secret function" and at the same time expressed "the determination of Americans to permit no governmental function to extend beyond the limits of established national interest." Mr. Bush said the CIA is abiding by the directives of the President and by its own administrative regulations and "we will not abuse our authority."

Mr. Bush said one of his continuing concerns is the lack of knowledge about what the CIA does and its important role in ensuring national security. He mentioned the Agency's work in combating international terrorism and international narcotics trafficking as among the kinds of things on which modern intelligence must report.

"I certainly do not disagree with the need for effective oversight by Congress of intelligence activities," he said, "nor do I take issue with responsible comment in the media. But I certainly take issue with those who take an irresponsible attitude and who, under the guise of news reporting, circulate misinformation which degrades the work of loyal and dedicated intelligence officers and analysts. I believe the American

public deserves more than this kind of superficial treatment."

Mr. Bush said he was against "overclassification" and is working to make certain that "secret stamps are never used to obscure failures, disguise mistakes, or cover up abuses." But, he emphasized, "genuine intelligence secrets" must be protected. He stressed: "The purpose of secrecy is not to keep knowledge from the people but to protect our security."

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